

A MANUAL OF HUMAN ANATOMY. By J. T. Aitkin, M.D., G. Causey, M.B., F.R.C.S., J. Joseph, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., D. A. Scholl, B.Sc., and J. Z. Young, M.A., F.R.S. Vol. 1: Thorax and Upper Limb (pp. viii + 162; figs. 36. 16s.); Vol. 2: Head and Neck (pp. viii + 180; figs. 53. 14s.); Vol. 3: Abdomen (pp. viii + 135; figs. 29. 12s. 6d.); Vol. 4: Lower Limb (pp. viii + 117; figs. 36. 12s. 6d.); Vol. 5: Central Nervous System (pp. vii + 140; figs. 40. 12s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1956 and 1957.

THESE five volumes represent a courageous and intelligent attempt to teach "anatomy without tears" by cutting out a vast amount of detail, and by close correlation throughout the text of structure, function, and clinical application. The manuals are a pleasure to read; the print is clear, the diagrams are simple and useful and are obviously the result of long teaching experience. The instructions for combining osteology and living anatomy with the dissecting-room work are admirable, and the accounts of lymphatic drainage are very good.

The plan attempted for each region is a brief general introduction, bringing out broad functional issues and often explaining structural patterns on simple embryological lines. This is followed by dissection instructions, enlivened with functional correlates and clinical applications. After this, further structural information is given concerning facts which are not so easily verified in the dissecting-room. Finally, functional aspects are once again considered, together with further practical applications. A separate chapter on lymphatic drainage follows the account of each major sub-division of the body. At the end of each volume instructions for practical classes in osteology and living anatomy are given.

The scheme, as a whole, is admirable; yet in practice the manuals fail, because the dissection instructions are too general and superficial and too quickly presented, affording an insufficient guide to the floundering student. The difficulties of actual dissection and identification are glossed over. Moreover, the information given, while excellent as regards each separate organ, does not convey a feeling for the region as a whole, for general relationships are not sufficiently stressed. It would be difficult for the average student from these books to synthesise the information into a useful whole.

On the credit side the manuals are light and easily handled and the ring binding makes them stay open. In spite of the manuals having been written primarily for the dissecting-room, in fact, I believe they would be very much more useful for rapid revision at the end of each period of dissection—with one exception—volume 5 on the Central Nervous System is very good, indeed, and could be strongly recommended for neurology practical classes, not least for its stimulating modern approach. If the dissecting instructions in the other manuals could be greatly amplified I believe the work would be very acceptable to the more intelligent students. J. J. P.

LUMBAR PUNCTURE AND SPINAL ANALGESIA. By Sir Robert Macintosh, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.F.A.R.C.S. Second Edition. (Pp. viii + 142; figs. 111. 25s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1957.

THIS book deals very fully with the subjects indicated by the title. The form of the book and the style of the writing and illustrations are those which one now associates with Professor Macintosh's productions. The drawings by Miss McLarty, some of them coloured, are excellent.

There are nine chapters in the book; which is of 137 pages, and of these the ones dealing with the anatomy of the region and the distribution of analgesic solutions are outstanding.

This book should be of great value to the anaesthetist in training, both as a practical guide and for examination purposes. It should also be helpful to anyone needing guidance on the technique of lumbar puncture.

The author considers this second edition necessary to eliminate minor inaccuracies, and to allow of some revision of the illustrations.

The book is still good value at the fairly high price.

J. E.